

## Quick Tips For Residents:

### How to Keep Our Streams Healthy

Never pour gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, battery acid, or other automotive fluids, paints or thinners into a stream, storm drain, or onto the ground.

Clean up automobile and chemical spills using “dry” clean-up methods such as cat litter or other absorbent materials, then package and dispose of properly.



Never dump water from carpet cleaners into a stream or storm drain.

Avoid hosing down paved surfaces or washing your car on a paved driveway or street.

Allow chlorine and other pool or spa chemicals to evaporate completely before draining your pool.

Check rain gutters and other pipes to see where they drain. Make sure they do not carry water directly into a nearby stream. Planting a “rain garden” with native plants at the base of your downspout is a sure way to protect your local watershed and beautify your property.

Pump out your underground septic and storage tanks regularly and make sure your leach field is working properly.

**Additional tips and information  
will be found on the Fishkill Creek  
Watershed website at:  
[FishkillCreekWatershed.org](http://FishkillCreekWatershed.org)**

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is a region of land that drains down slope to a particular body of water such as a lake, stream, or even into an ocean. No matter where you live, you are in a watershed!

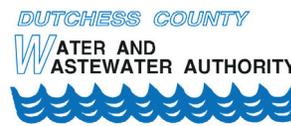
The **Hudson River** watershed encompasses a large region where rainwater and snowmelt moves downward to the Hudson River.

The **Fishkill Creek** watershed is a smaller region within the larger Hudson River watershed that drains a large portion of south-central Dutchess County and portions of northern Putnam County.

For more information about the Fishkill Creek Watershed visit our website at [FishkillCreekWatershed.org](http://FishkillCreekWatershed.org)

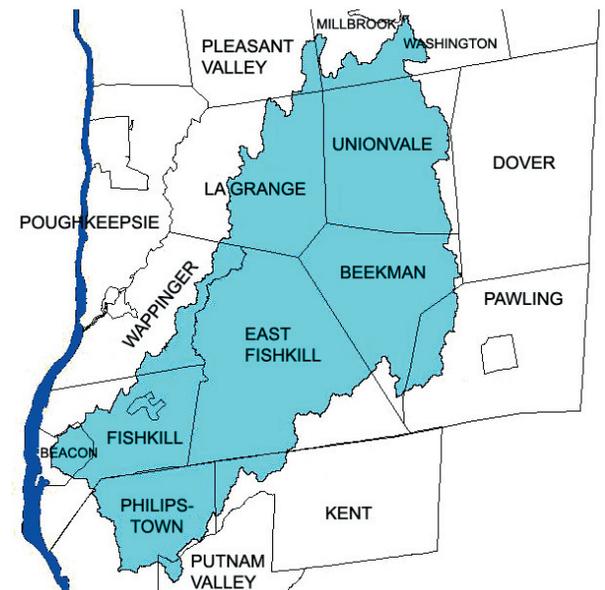
This brochure is made possible through a grant from the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program. Fran Dunwell, Director

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# How to Protect Your Streams, Lakes, Ponds, and Wetlands



| Please Do...  | Please Don't...  | Here's Why...   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Leave native vegetation along the sides of the streams. Trees and shrubs shade the stream and provide leaf litter, which forms the base of the aquatic food web.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Landscape the streamside by removing native vegetation. Native vegetation helps to clean the water and keeps out invasive, non-native species.</li> <li>✗ Remove overhanging trees or shrubs from streambanks.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Healthy native streamside vegetation provides food and shelter for wildlife. Their root systems stabilize streambanks, guarding against erosion.</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Overhanging trees keep the stream water cool for spawning trout and other fish.</i></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Leave the streambanks and channels in their natural, unaltered condition.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Remove overhanging trees or shrubs from streambanks. Remove embedded logs from the stream. Dig, dredge, or reconstruct the stream channel without a permit.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Streamside trees die and fall into the stream, become embedded there and form pools which are important to insect and fish habitat.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use garden and lawn chemicals sparingly and with care. Follow disposal instructions carefully. Try using compost and other organic gardening methods.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Spray streamside vegetation with chemicals or dispose of chemical-laden garden refuse in or near water. Over-watering causes chemicals to wash off your garden.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Fertilizers promote algae and weed growth in streams and lakes. Many pesticides and herbicides are toxic to fish and humans.</i></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Take precautions to avoid excessive runoff when clearing land and re-establish vegetation as soon as possible.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Allow cleanup and construction wastewater from mortar and paving, painting, etc. to enter storm sewers or roadside ditches.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="905 1068 1178 1289" data-label="Image"> </div>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Dangerous pollutants such as oil and antifreeze wash off driveways and roads and enter streams untreated.</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Dumping oil, gasoline, solvents and degreasers into sewers and streams is illegal and dangerous.</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Construction sites are a major source of sediment, which can ruin spawning gravel and suffocate fish.</i></li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Support legislation that benefits water quality such as improved wastewater and stormwater management, erosion control, and preservation of wetlands. Work with local planners to preserve our watershed.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Tolerate litterbugs and others who degrade our public resources. Don't leave the problem to someone else!</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Impervious surfaces, litter and junk in and near our streams can cause water quality problems and endanger fish, wildlife, people's wells and public water supplies.</i></li> </ul>   |